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Statistical Commission
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting at a regular session, shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur (the Bureau).

The Bureau serves for two years, to the extent possible. This is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing those members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session. The Bureau is elected on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution; a member of the Bureau is elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its forty-second session (New York, 22-25 February 2011)[1] and were adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2011/245. The Bureau of the Commission has subsequently approved some changes. The proposed draft organization of work for the session is before the Commission.

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 4* (E/2011/24), chap. I, sect. A, draft decision.

The Commission may wish to adopt the agenda and organization of work for its forty-third session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2012/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2012/L.1)

3. Items for discussion and decision

(a) Programme review: population and housing censuses

The Commission will have before it the programme review of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses prepared by the United States Bureau of the Census. The current round of the population and housing census is historic: almost every country in the world held or will hold a census between 2005 and 2014. The same round also witnessed an increasing number of countries using new approaches to obtain data and modern technology in various census phases. The review takes stock of the recent experiences of countries in conducting a census and assesses the emerging issues and challenges. The Commission is invited to consider the achievements of the current World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, with a view to identifying its future direction.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United States of America on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses (E/CN.3/2012/2)

(b) Crime statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico on crime statistics. The report covers the different challenges that affect crime statistics at the national and international levels, including the development of standard concepts and definitions, the lack of coordination among national institutions and different data sources, and the lack of an international framework for comparing data on conventional and transnational crimes. The Commission is invited to discuss actions to be taken by the different actors of the international statistical system, namely national statistical offices and international and regional organizations, to overcome these challenges. Issues that will be discussed include: (a) strategies to be adopted by national statistical offices to better coordinate the collection, dissemination and analysis of crime data; (b) the increased role of victimization surveys; (c) measurement of emerging and "difficult-to-measure" crimes such as organized crime, corruption and human trafficking; (d) development of an international crime classification framework to improve the comparability of data within and across countries; (e) establishment by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of a centre of excellence on crime statistics; and (f) the first international conference on crime statistics.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico on crime statistics (E/CN.3/2012/3)

(c) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. The report provides an update on the translation of the *System of National Accounts, 2008* (2008 SNA) in the other United Nations official languages. It also presents the outcomes of the Working Group's research agenda on two substantive conceptual issues relating to the 2008 SNA, namely: (a) the conceptual clarification of the recording of emission allowances and emission permits; and (b) the conceptual clarification of the delineation of financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM). In addition, it provides information on the global implementation programme for the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics. The Commission is requested to express its views and provide guidance on the elements of the programme of work of the Working Group.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair group on the barriers to the implementation of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* (1993 SNA). The report presents an analysis of the results of the survey undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to identify the barriers to the implementation of the 1993 SNA. It also provides recommendations for the national and international programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting statistics. The Commission is requested to express its views and provide guidance on the recommendations contained in the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2012/4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on the barriers to the implementation of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* (E/CN.3/2012/5)

(d) Agricultural statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair group on agricultural statistics presenting the key proposals contained in the action plan to implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the process followed for its development. The action plan proposes a coherent capacity-building programme for the development of an integrated agricultural statistical system at the national level. The action plan also includes a description of governance mechanisms and of the architecture of financial flows. The report describes the activities accomplished to date, including finalization of the action plan, resource mobilization initiatives and partnership arrangements established with regional agencies.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income, in particular with respect to

the second edition of the Handbook entitled *Rural Households' Livelihood and Well-Being: Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income*.[2]

The Commission is invited to endorse the action plan and its governance. Furthermore, the Commission is invited to take note of the report of the Wye Group and endorse the second edition of the Handbook. The Commission is also invited to approve the establishment of the proposed inter-agency expert group on agricultural statistics as a new mechanism for guiding the methodological development of agriculture and rural statistics and for monitoring the implementation of the action plan. This mechanism would replace the Friends of the Chair group on agricultural statistics and the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on agricultural statistics (E/CN.3/2012/6)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income (E/CN.3/2012/7)

(e) Environmental-economic accounting

The Commission will have before it the report of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. The report elaborates on the progress made in the programme of work of the Committee, with particular focus on activities related to the revision of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA). It describes the status of work and the results of the second round of global consultations on chapters 1-6 of the System (central framework). The report provides an update on the progress in the development of the experimental ecosystem accounts and the extensions and applications. It also summarizes the progress of work in the development and finalization of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Energy (SEEA-E), presenting the outcome of the expert group meeting. It reports on the development of an implementation plan for SEEA and contains information about ongoing efforts to promote the System in international forums as the statistical framework for assessing linkages between the environment and the economy. The Commission is invited to adopt chapters 1-6 of SEEA (central framework), express its views on the finalization of SEEA-E and comment on the progress of work of the Committee.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2012/8)

(f) Environment statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and a background document containing the core chapters of the revised Framework. The report will summarize the conclusions of the two expert group meetings held since

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.II.E.14.

the forty-second session of the Commission, describe the core chapters of the Framework contained in the background document and present the plan for the remaining actions to be taken to conclude the revision process. The Commission is requested to approve in principle the core chapters of the revised Framework as contained in the background document and endorse the steps to finalize the revision as described in the report of the Secretary-General.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2012/9)

(g) Energy statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the compilation of natural gas statistics containing a review of international activities in the collection and compilation of statistics on natural gas and an overview of the main problems that countries and organizations face in this area. The report also presents an outline of the programme of work that the Statistics Division, in cooperation and coordination with other international and regional organizations, intends to undertake on improving the annual and monthly collection of natural gas statistics. The proposals take into account the guidance provided by the International Recommendations for Energy Statistics, adopted by the Commission at its forty-second session. The Commission is invited to express its views on the assessment of the current situation and the proposed activities.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the compilation of natural gas statistics (E/CN.3/2012/10)

(h) Statistics for economies based on natural resources

The Commission has before it a proposal contained in a joint report of the National Statistical Office of Mongolia and the Australian Bureau of Statistics on the establishment of an Ulaanbaatar city group on statistics for economies based on natural resources. This city group will examine the unique statistical tasks required to understand the dynamics of such economies.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the joint report of Mongolia and Australia on the establishment of an Ulaanbaatar city group on statistics for economies based on natural resources (E/CN.3/2012/11)

(i) Information and communications technology statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development. The report presents the progress made on information and communications technology (ICT) statistics worldwide during the past five years, including the revised and extended core list of ICT indicators. It identifies the indicators and countries where most progress has been made as well as the major data gaps. The report also highlights important

statistical challenges and proposes a set of actions to be taken to enhance the availability of internationally comparable indicators on ICT. The Commission is requested to review the progress made and endorse the recommendations proposed by the Partnership to improve ICT statistics.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development (E/CN.3/2012/12)

(j) National quality assurance frameworks

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General containing a description of the work carried out by the United Nations Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks, in line with the mandate given by the Commission at its forty-first session, namely: (a) to develop a generic national quality assurance framework template while taking the existing quality frameworks into account and establishing mapping to them; (b) to compile a set of guidelines to accompany the template; (c) to compile a glossary of the main quality-related terms; (d) to build up an online inventory of documents and links to national and international quality tools and references; and (e) to enhance and update the website on national quality assurance frameworks maintained by the Statistics Division.

A separate background document containing the generic national quality assurance framework template and its accompanying guidelines, lists of tools and references, detailed mapping showing the correspondence to several existing quality assurance frameworks and links to the online glossary and the website will be submitted to the Commission.

The Commission is invited to review and endorse the generic national quality assurance framework template and to express its views on the guidelines, glossary, tools and references and website.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on national quality assurance frameworks (E/CN.3/2012/13)

(k) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Commission will have before it a brief progress report on the work of the Friends of the Chair group on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, which was established at the forty-second session of the Commission. The initial focus of the group is to revise and update the language of the preamble of the Fundamental Principles. The group has also elaborated a detailed time plan for 2012, including a review of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles by Member States and development of a practical guide for their implementation. The Commission is asked to review the proposal for an updated preamble and to comment on the workplan of the Friends of the Chair group.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2012/14)

(l) Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations

In accordance with a mandate given at its forty-second session in the context of the discussion of statistics of human development, the Commission will have before it a report by the Secretary-General on current statistical coordination arrangements within the United Nations system. The report presents some options for strengthening current arrangements on specific topics and contains a proposal to form a Friends of the Chair group with a mandate to identify and prioritize those areas where coordination needs to be enhanced and to suggest appropriate mechanisms to do so.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations (E/CN.3/2012/15)

(m) Efforts in developing a plan of action on statistical development

The Commission will have before it a report of the World Bank on an action plan for the development of statistics. This action plan, known as the "Busan Action Plan for Statistics", is an input for the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 29 November to 1 December 2011. The outcome of the Forum will include a commitment to implement the plan to monitor progress, evaluate impact, ensure sound, results-focused public sector management, and highlight strategic issues for policy decisions. The Busan Action Plan builds on the success of the Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics, which was endorsed by the Commission. The plan outlines five steps needed to strengthen national statistical systems in developing countries and to increase the effectiveness of the support provided by development partners. The Commission is invited to comment on the plan's objectives and actions and provide guidance on priorities.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on efforts in developing a plan of action on statistical development (E/CN.3/2012/16)

(n) Statistics of human development

This report outlines the commitment of the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme to address the concerns raised by Member States at the forty-second session of the Statistical Commission. The report provides an account of the concrete steps taken and the processes and structures set in place to strengthen a constructive engagement with Member States and the global statistical community with respect to the measurement of human development and to support greater transparency in the production of the 2011 and future Human Development Reports. An update on the status of preparations for the 2012 Human Development Report will be included in the report. The Commission may wish to review these procedures and processes.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Programme on statistics of human development (E/CN.3/2012/17)

(o) Regional statistical development in Europe

This report describes the trends in the development of official statistics in the countries members of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). It discusses recent initiatives for responding to the needs of economic and social policymaking and assessing progress towards international development goals. It elaborates on the coordination of international statistical work in the ECE region through the Conference of European Statisticians. The close cooperation with member countries and international organizations has led to the development of guidelines and recommendations with a global impact. It also addresses issues related to the adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, a set of standards adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians in 1992 and globally by the Statistical Commission in 1994. Lastly, the report highlights the main challenges facing official statistics, including needs for statistical capacity-building. The Commission is invited to comment on the ongoing work to address those challenges.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic Commission for Europe on regional statistical development in Europe (E/CN.3/2012/18)

4. Items for information

(a) Gender statistics

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General describing the work by the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics and the Statistics Division in carrying out the tasks specified in the programme review of gender statistics.[3] The report also describes the workplan and strategies implemented by the Statistics Division and the Interagency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics to strengthen the global gender statistics programme.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair on statistical indicators for measuring violence against women. In line with the Commission's mandate, the Statistics Division has initiated work on draft guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women. The report will present an outline of the guidelines as well as the proceedings and conclusions of a consultative meeting to review the draft guidelines, held in Beirut from 8 to 10 November 2011. The Commission is invited to take note of these progress reports.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2012/19)

[3] E/CN.3/2011/3 (paras. 46 and 50).

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair on statistical indicators for measuring violence against women (E/CN.3/2012/20)

(b) Washington Group on Disability Statistics

The report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics provides an update on the Group's work on the development of an extended set of questions on functioning. The question set addresses a wider range of domains than was possible for the short question set developed for censuses. The extended question set can be added to other surveys or can form the basis for a disability survey. It represents the joint efforts of the Washington Group and the Budapest Initiative and was presented to Eurostat for inclusion in the next round of the European Health Interview Survey. Furthermore, at the most recent Washington Group meeting (Bermuda, November 2011), work was initiated on question sets applicable to children and on the environment and its impact on participation. The report also summarizes activities related to workshops and training sessions and collaborations with other international organizations. The Commission is requested to take note of the Washington Group's current and future programme of work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2012/21)

(c) International merchandise trade statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on international merchandise trade statistics. The report contains a description of the activities undertaken in response to the recommendations made by the Statistical Commission at its forty-first session with regard to the implementation of the new recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics. The report presents the draft revised compilation guidance for international merchandise trade statistics, details of which are contained in the background document, the revised *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual*. The draft compilation guidance was prepared by the Statistics Division in consultation with the national statistical offices and international organizations concerned. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international merchandise trade statistics (E/CN.3/2012/22)

(d) Statistics of international trade in services

The Commission will have before it the report of the inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services summarizing the activities it has carried out in response to the request of the Commission at its forty-first session to implement the international recommendations contained in the 2010 *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services*. The report briefly describes the work done and presents the next steps of the implementation programme, including the establishment of a group of national and international experts in this field, which

has been established for the express purpose of guiding the implementation programme. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (E/CN.3/2012/23)

(e) Finance statistics

The report of the International Monetary Fund on the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics summarizes progress and recent developments in the field of finance statistics and provides an overview of planned activities. The Commission is requested to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/2012/24)

(f) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it a report on the International Comparison Programme. The report, prepared by the World Bank on behalf of the Executive Board of the International Comparison Programme, outlines the status of implementation of the 2011 round. The report provides information on country participation, risk assessment, price data collection and validation, governance meetings and the status of regional programmes. The report also outlines financial aspects and progress achieved in formulating the data access and archiving policy. The Commission may wish to review and take note of the progress in the implementation of the 2011 round.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2012/25)

(g) Ottawa Group on Price Indices

The report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices summarizes recent developments and activities, provides an update on the latest meetings and outlines the plans of the Ottawa Group. The Commission is requested to take note of the report

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices (E/CN.3/2012/26)

(h) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

The Commission will have before it a report that summarizes the main conclusions of the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, held in New York on 21 February 2011 and in Luxembourg from 7 to 9 September 2011, respectively. The Commission may wish to take into

account, in its discussions under relevant agenda items, the views expressed by the Committee. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2012/27)

(i) International economic and social classifications

The report of the Secretary-General provides updated information on the work carried out under the auspices of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications. In particular, the report provides information on the outcome of the meeting of the Expert Group in 2011 and its recommendations for future work and the organization of work, including an updated mandate for the Expert Group. The report also outlines the scope for the regularly scheduled update of the Central Product Classification (CPC). The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2012/28)

(j) Development indicators

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General describing the work of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators and the Statistics Division in the following areas: developing tools and methodology for country-level assessment of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals; providing training and technical assistance to countries on indicators to monitor the Goals and on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) standards for Goal indicators; resolving differences between national and international data sets; and improving coordination of data reporting and monitoring of the Goals. The report also describes the preparation of the yearly progress reports on progress towards achievement of the Goals and presents an assessment of data availability for Goal indicators. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on development indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2012/29)

(k) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

This item was placed on the agenda by the Commission at the request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/51 with a view to encouraging a closer relationship between the work of the Commission and the Council. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General containing extracts from resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions of the General Assembly, the Council or of other functional commissions that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission. The report also contains a description of the actions taken

so far and those suggested to be taken. The Commission may wish to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2012/30)

(l) Global geospatial information management

The Commission will have before it a report by the Secretary-General on the recent work of the Statistics Division in the field of global geospatial information management. Following a recommendation by the Statistical Commission at its forty-first session, the Economic and Social Council had taken up the topic in 2011 and adopted a resolution to form a United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management. The report summarizes the outcomes of the first United Nations High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management as well as of the first session of the Committee of Experts, held in October 2011 in Seoul. The Commission is invited to take note of this progress report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management (E/CN.3/2012/31)

(m) World Statistics Day

The Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General prepared in consultation with the Bureau. The document presents a proposal to celebrate World Statistics Day every five years under modalities similar to those used in 2010. The Commission is invited to take note of and confirm this proposal.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day (E/CN.3/2012/32)

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the Statistics Division concerning current activities, plans and priorities.

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fourth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-fourth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session. In addition, in accordance with a request of the Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2012-2015. The Commission is invited to approve the date, provisional agenda and documentation for its forty-fourth session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2012/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2012-2015 (E/CN.3/2012/33)

7. **Report of the Commission on its forty-third session**

The Commission may wish to adopt the report on its forty-third session, which will be submitted to the Council.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its forty-third session (E/CN.3/2012/L.__)